CLAIMS OF THE INVENTION

1.   A method for generating a consistency point comprising the steps of:

marking a plurality of inodes pointing to a plurality of modified blocks in a file system as being in a consistency point;

flushing regular files to storage means;

flushing special files to said storage means.;

flushing at least one block of file system information to said storage means; and,

requeueing any dirty inodes that were not part of said consistency point.

2.   The method of claim 1 wherein said step of flushing said special files to said storage means further comprises the steps of:

pre-flushing an inode for a blockmap file to an inode file;

allocating space on said storage means for all duty blocks in said inode and said blockmap files;

flushing said inode for said blockmap file again;

updating a plurality of entries in said blockmap file wherein each entry of said plurality of entries represents a block on said storage means; and,

writing all dirty blocks in said blockmap file and said inode file to said storage means.